



Library Relocation FAQ

1. Will Council need to raise rates to pay for this?

No. Council's cash position has improved substantially from March 2022 to March 2025 while maintaining rate increases at or below 5%. Council has the financial capacity to deliver this project without additional rate rises.

2. How does Litchfield Library budget compare to other Councils?

The average spend/capita in other NT Councils is \$50/capita. Litchfield Council's current spend is under \$20/capita.

3. Why does the library need to move?

The current library at Taminmin School does not meet community needs. Access is limited due to school operations, restricted hours, poor visibility and location. Despite population growth, library membership has dropped from 8% in 2017 to just 6% in 2025, compared to a national average above 40%. The community is not using the library because it is not accessible.

4. Was there sufficient community engagement?

Yes. Independent community and stakeholder consultation reports were commissioned in 2017 and again in 2021. Both reports found the current library facility was not meeting community needs. These structured and representative consultations informed Council's decision.

5. What is wrong with the current library?

The facility is based inside a high school, which limits public access and reduces visibility. It operates on limited hours and is not a welcoming or easily accessible place for community use.



6. What about current library programs like Storytime and book clubs?

These programs will not be lost. In fact, relocation will enhance them by increasing visibility, accessibility and community participation. The new location will be better equipped and open longer hours.

7. Isn't social media telling us residents don't support this?

Social media is a valuable space for community conversation, but not a reliable or representative basis for public policy. Council's decision was guided by years of structured community consultation and data.

8. What will the new library offer that the old one doesn't?

The new facility will provide accessible and safe spaces for all ages, including a digital literacy workshops, book clubs, printing and internet access for those who can't afford it at home and more.

9. Why did Libraries NT reduce funding in 2023?

Libraries NT reduced funding by \$140,000 due to Council's ongoing failure to relocate the library. This decision followed years of low usage statistics.

10. What happens if we don't move the library?

We risk entrenching poor usage, losing further funding and continuing to deny thousands of resident's access to vital services. It would ignore years of evidence, consultation and our responsibility to act.